GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2313
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2005
MEDICAL DRUG ABUSE
Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Medical drugs abuse is rapidly increasing in the cities in the country;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether drugs having content of narcotic are very much popular among college students;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare propose to formulate any strategies to check the Medical drugs abuse in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SUBBU LAKSHMI JAGADEESAN)

(a) (b) & (c) There is no authenticated report to indicate the increase/decrease of medical drug abuse, as no timeline data for benchmarking is available. No specific study has been undertaken on college students.

(d) & (e) The Drug Controller General of India, Ministry of Health has taken following measures to check the medical drug abuse in the country:

Chemists and Druggists have been directed to sell these drugs only against prescription of registered medical practioners;

Manufacturers have been advised to revise the formulation of certain drugs to bring down the narcotic content and put the warning `the drug has potential of abuse and should be used under strict medical supervision` in red colour on the label.

The State authorities have been directed to prevent easy availability of these drugs through retail outlets.

In addition to the above, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment provides financial support to NGOs for conducting awareness generation programmes about ill effects of drug abuse at different settings including educational institutions.